

Godly Examples with Godly Advice, Part 2 - Acts 18:24-25 – January 25th, 2009

- Last week Paul ended his 2nd missionary journey and in the next chapter will seamlessly begin what is called his 3rd missionary journey.
- However, before we rejoin Paul in chapter 19, it seems the Holy Spirit has deemed it necessary for Luke to introduce us to Apollos.

- In studying the book of Acts, we've been getting to know these people that we are reading about. They are real people becoming real.
- The more we get to know them, the more personable they become to us, in-so-much that they are really becoming good friends to us.
- They seemingly rise from the pages of scripture and say to us, they're here with us, as examples to us, and with good advice for us.

- This is part two of a study titled; "Godly Examples with Godly Advice." Last week Paul had some good and godly advice to and for us.
- Now we will look at what Apollos has to say by his example to us, and in his advice to us, were he to be our guest speaker today.

1. Be knowledgeable (Verse 24)

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was **a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.**

v24 We're told that Apollos was a Jew, who was a native of Alexandria, which would explain why he was so learned and knowledgeable.

- Alexandria, which is in Egypt, was, it isn't now, a magnificent city, and was actually the second largest city in the Roman Empire.
- Alexandria was the intellectual capital of the world at the time. Recent excavations have uncovered a library of 700,000 volumes.
- Alexandria was where the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek in what is called the "Septuagint," meaning "70" in Latin.

- It's no wonder that Apollos was "a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures." After all, he was from Alexandria.
- So what's the point? Simply this; "it's both incumbent on us and absolutely vital for us, to learn and know God's Word."
- If Apollos were speaking here today this is what I believe he would have to say; "be knowledgeable!" The Proverbs are replete with this.

Proverbs 23:12 Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. NKJV

2. Be exciting (Verse 25a)

25a He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he **spoke with great fervor...**

v25a Apollos spoke with great fervor, meaning that he boiled or bubbled over in the spirit. Apollos was enthusiastic, excited and exciting.

- I'm keenly aware, this may sound like one of those "be positive, be enthusiastic, and have a positive mental attitude" new age seminars.

- Let me hasten to say that his exciting enthusiasm wasn't manufactured. It was who and how he was, because he knew God's Word.
- Apparently, Apollos was so exciting and so charismatic that people were starting to carnally follow him, and Paul had to rebuke them.

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe-as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. NIV

3. Be accurate (Verse 25b)

25b ...**and taught about Jesus accurately,** though he knew only the baptism of John.

v25b Goes on to tell us that Apollos taught about Jesus accurately, even though he only knew of the baptism of John.

- This is one of those places in the scriptures where we have a seemingly nebulous detail that at first doesn't have much importance.
- However, upon further examination and meditation, we should come to the realization that there is an application to our own situation.

- In other words, the accuracy in which Apollos taught was important enough for Luke, by the Holy Spirit, to mention it in his record.
- Here's the point; "we do err when we get sloppy, for lack of a better word, in our presentation of the gospel, and instruction in the Word."

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.** NASU

- This is of the utmost importance to me personally as a pastor and teacher. So much so, that I have created a template for my teaching.
- Actually, I use this template to take a "tally" of sorts before I teach from God's Word. I even use the word "tally" as an acronym.

T – True: Is the teaching true, is it truth?

A – Accurate: Are the references, quotes, information, etc. accurate?

L – Loving: Is the teaching one of God's love for us?

L – Liberating: Is the teaching free of legalism or does it lay a heavy burden on people?

Y – You: Is the teaching you? Has God ministered it "to" you, before He ministers it "through" you?